## Anchorage Amateur Radio Club **GENERAL MEETING ON July 6th**

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

This Month's Events Meeting Minutes Newsletter Editor Editorial Items for Sale Special Event Proposal For Iditarod 2002 Re-established Contacts That Old Ragged Flag **Bunny Hunt Information** Stretch goes rabbit hunting

Officers

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Keith Clark, WL7CSR Richard Block, KL7RLB Jim Feaster, KL7KB Trustee Activities Chairman TJ Sheffield, KL7TS Edythe Lynn KL7EL

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AARC web page & Email contact addresses

Homepage:

http://home.gci.net/~lawson/

Webmaster:

Email Reflector: KL7AA@QTH.NET lawson@gci.net

President:

vallee@gci.net

Membership:

frederickson@iname.com

Newsletter:

kl7el@arrl.net

News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:

Submissions must be received 2 weeks before meeting Email: KL7EL@arrt.net Facsimile: 907-338-4791

Mail: 7013 Trafford Ave. Anchorage 99504

KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm AK time, every day Frequencies: 3575 kHz, 7075 kHz &

145.35 MHz: Sending Speeds: 7 wpm

Nets in Alaska:

The following nets are active in South-Central Alaska: Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 6:00 PM daily

Alaska Bush Net 7.093 MHz 8:00 PM daily Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 9:00 PM daily Alaska Pacific Net 14.292 MHz 8:30 AM M-F

850 No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 8:00 PM Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local Big City Simplex Net 146.520, 446.0, & 52.525 FM, Packet

145.01 Tuesdays 8:00 PM local

ARES net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 8:00 PM local PARKA net 147.30/.90 repeater Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

Anchorage & Mat Valley Area Repeaters

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft

146.94/34 MHz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL

224.94/223.34, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 123.0/141.3 PL

KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC & QCWA

146.97/.37 MHz, 30 watts, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7M Anchorage Hillside

147.21/.81 MHz, Internet Iphone, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 3,940 ft

147.30/90, MHz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL

KL7AIR Elmendorf AFB, EARS

146.67/.07, 107.2 Hz PL

KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.

147.09/.69 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL

444.925/449.925, 10 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

KL7JFU, KGB road, MARA club

146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL KL7DOB, Wasilla in WL7BD's tree

146.64/.04, simplex patch, no PL

KL7AA, Mt. Alveska, 2,400 ft.

146.76/16 MHz, 25 watts, no patch, 141.3 Hz PL

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies

146.52 Mhz Calling and Emergency frequency

147.57 / 447.57 (crossband linked) HF spotters & chat, 103.5

146.49 Mhz Anchorage area simplex chat

146.43 MHz Mat Valley simplex chat

147.42MHz Peninsula simplex chat

#### ~~~ HOT LINKS ~~~

Internet Web links, the favorites from our readers

AARC http://home.gci.net/~lawson/

SCRC http://www.KL7G.org EARS http://www.qsl.net/kl7air

MARA http://www.obarr.net/mara/

Moose Horn ARC http://www.alaksa.net/~k17fg

ARES http://www.qsl.net/aresalaska

KL7J http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz

Fairbanks AARC: http://www.kl7kc.com/

Yukon Amateur Radio Association:

http://www.klondike.com/yara/index.html

HAARP Project:

http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/projects/haarp/

<< Amateur Radio Reference Library>>

http://www.area-ham.org/library/libindex.html

Hamradio: http://www.hamrad.com/

Solar Terrestrial Activity http://209.130.27.95/solar/

ARRL http://www.arrl.org/

Propagation Report Recording 566-1819

Please let us know if there are other clubs pages or good

starting points that should appear here

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#### ABACUS RADIO REPAIR

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment. Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

#### Regular HAM Gatherings:

LunchTuesdays, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM: Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, "South, on Old Seward Highway.

Breakfast Saturdays, 7:30 AM: Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

#### THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

July 3rd: EARS general meeting at 7:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, in the basement of Denali Hall (building 31-270) on Elmendorf AFB. Talk in on 147.67/.07 repeater.

July 3rd: VE License Exam 6:30 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Hope Cottage offices, 540 W International. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

July 6th: AARC general meeting at 7:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month in the Carr-Gottstein Building, on the APU Campus. Talk in will be on 147.300.

July 13<sup>th</sup> & 27th: Moosehorn ARC general meeting at 7:00 PM every other Thursday in the Soldotna Borough q3Offices

on North Binkley. Talk in on 146.88 repeater or 147.42 simplex.

July 13th: SCRC meeting at 7:00 PM the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Denny's on Debarr & Bragaw. Talk in on 147.57 simplex.

July 14th: VE License Exams at 2:00 PM. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International. Be sure to bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

July 17th: AARC Board meeting at 7:00 PM 3<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Hope Cottage 540 W. International.

July 21st: ARES General meeting 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Will be held at Alyeska Building on Bragaw Street. Planning for Field Day and Mayor's Marathon.

July 21st: PARKA Meeting at 11:00 AM. 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at Peggy's, across from Merrill Field

MARA club meeting Changed to July 28th Saturday bunny hunt and BBQ at the Matanuska River Park in north Palmer meet at the Park at 9:00AM and the bunny hunt will get underway at 10:00AM. Look for signs (or lots of antennas) at Pavilion A in the Day use area.

HAMFEST September 15 Saturday with the Banquet Friday night September 14 at Royal Fork South. Call KL7CC, Jim Wiley Hamfest Chairman at 338-0662 to volunteer to help.

### Silent Key

Arnold C. Perry passed away 16 March 2001 at the Valley Hospital in Palmer, Alaska. Military interment will be at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery Anchorage, Alaska. Arnold had Special interest in:

- · American Radio Relay League
- National Rifle Association
- MatValley Sportsmen Assoc.
- Mayflower Society

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# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES Were submitted for the month of May By And transcribed by Edythe Lynn, KL7EL

- \* AARC meeting was called to order at 1900 on 1 May 01 by President Randy Vallee, AL7PJ.
- \* Guest speaker was Ross Flavel of the Anchorage Police Search Team; he spoke on the teams capabilities and recent searches.
- Business meeting followed the guest speaker and introduction of members & friends.
- Board minutes were approved as written.

- KL7CY briefed on procedure to subscribe to the KL7AA reflector.
- Treasure's report by KL7RLB referred to his comments in the current (June) newsletter. He noted that the IRS has just forgiven our past late filing fees of the club tax returns.
- Voted (with 30 positive & one negative vote) to retain the CPA firm of Meaux and Rogers. CPA firm to conduct the future filings for the club. Voted a \$2,500 appropriation for this calendar year.
- 15 minute break at 2015 to 2030
- AL7FS spoke on priorities of Grant requests: Ham Clubs, scholarships and other charitable organizations.
- 22 Voted in favor of accepting new Grants Policy as defined in the June newsletter
- 2 abstentions
- 23 voted in favor of increasing Board Authority to \$1500.00 per transaction.
- 2 abstentions
- KL7CC spoke on progress of Club Motor home project, asked for recommendations and assistance with construction. Will be available for inspection at ARES meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Emergency Radio Kits will be demo'ed at ARES meeting also.
- Troop 142 (Eagle River) Girl Scouts will bag up pieces and parts to constructs; 75 Code practice oscillators for June Girl Scout Encampent.
- Field Day and Mayor's Marathon
  - Set up Friday evening take 15 to 30 mins.
  - Mayors marathon any questions contact John Lynn, KL7CY.
- David Stevens was asked to help Rick and Lill Marvin with their class, with his help and the class the Red Cross now has a 60 foot tower.
- KL7CY spoke on antennas, rotors, and cost for installation at the Anchorage EOC.
- Voted to fune \$2500.00 in materials for this project
- 18 in favor
- 0 against
- 0 abstentions
- KL4E spoke on the need for inventory management control: Property tags, inventory roster, responsible party list, etc.
- KL7CC wants volunteers at his Q th to assist with decking the AARC Power trailer.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2145.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES None were submitted for the month of June

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#### Re-established Contacts

John Orella, KL7LL RR#7 Box 25 Lewisburg, PA. 17837 Home (570) 524-5446

Work (570) 523-1251 X 270

E-mail kl7ll@ptd.net

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Anchorage Amateur Radio Club July 6, 2001 Meeting 7PM Carr Gottstien Building on the APU campus.

TJ Sheffield, KL7TS will make a presentation on Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) propagation. NVIS is kind of a cool subject, and important for emergency communications.

One of the door prizes for the Friday night AARC meeting is the Park 'N Talk whip from Nott Antennas, Ltd., makers of the Broadbander 3 (BB3) screwdriver style mobile HF antenna. This product is designed to enhance the performance of screwdriver type antennas when the vehicle is parked, and is ideal for Field Day, camping trips, demonstrations and other HF applications from a stationary vehicle.

This door prize is a custom, one-off, special order version of the standard Park 'N Talk whip, in that it extends to more than 27 feet, where the standard model extends to only 22 feet. The antenna uses a 3/8" x 24 thread mounting stud, and includes a guy plate for attaching guy lines and a rubber end cap.

This whip will work with screwdriver antennas such as the BB3 or the High Sierra, as well as standard ball and spring mounts when combined with an antenna tuner. The antenna is assembled using slotted aluminum sleeved tubing and is secured with hose clamps along the pre-marked sections. This item should make an ideal addition to any HF mobileer's system.

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#### ITEMS FOR SALE

By Ed Maher, NL7VP for prices/OBO Home: 243-4348 Work: 249-3151

- 1. Regency Model MX5000: VHF/UHF Scanner
- Japan Radio Co. (JRC) Model NRD-515 w. NVA -515 CEL 260 General coverage RCVR. 100 KHz - 30 MHz: External Speaker Filters (Collins 1.9 kHz, 3.8 kHz)
- 3. MFJ 971: Portable tuner
- RF Concepts Model 2/70G: Linear amplifier, 143-149 MHz; 5 in-30 out; 430-450 MHz 5 in 20 out
- Stoner Dymek Model DA100D: Active RCV antenna for MF & HF
- Larsen NMO Model 2/70: 2m/70cm mobile antenna (magna-mount, coil & whip ant.)
- 7. Antennas West: MAXI-J roll-up antennas 12m & 20m
- 8. Antennas West: PICO-J pocket antenna 2m/70cm
- AEA Models –HR-2/HR-4: Telescoping stainless steel HT antennas 2m/70cm

 Solid copper ground buss bar: 26" x 1" x ¼" – (4 wing nut connections, 1 ground strap connection, & 2 mounting holes)

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Paul Jendryk 248-5312 Icom handi talkie IC-T8A tri-band, 2m, 440, 6m, with accessories, like new. \$250

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Lance Dunbar, AL7BK, 337-6297 after 6:30 pm or on weekends.

- Kenwood TS-430S (with YK88C CW filter) HF transceiver. Asking \$500.00
- 2. Kenwood PS-30 amp Power Supply. Asking \$90.00
- 3. Kenwood AT-230 HF Antenna Tuner. Asking \$75.00
- Kenwood TM-21A 2-meter Handheld Transceiver. Asking \$50.00
- Dentron MLA-2500 HF Linear Amplifier. Asking \$400.00
- 6. Heathkit SA-2040 HF Antenna Tuner. Asking \$75.00
- Heathkit "Cantenna" 1-KW Dummy Load. Asking \$10.00
- 8. Heathkit ID-1290 Weather Station. Asking \$50.00
- MFJ MFJ-1224 RTTY-Computer Interface. Asking \$40.00
- 10. MJF MFJ-1270B TNC2 Packet Interface. Asking \$40.00
- MFJ MFJ-484 Electronic Keyer with Bencher Paddles. Asking \$25.00
- MFJ MFJ-1763 2-meter Parable Beam Antenna (new). Asking \$20.00
- 13. ICOM 1C-229A 2-meter Transceiver. Asking \$100.00
- 14. Trip-Lite PR-15 12V 15A Power Supply. Asking \$50.00
- 15. Autck Research QF-1A Audio/CW Filter. Asking \$20.00
- Cushcraft ATB-34 tri-band w/A-744 40-meter addon Bcam antenna. Asking \$150.00
- Cushcraft Ringo Ranger 2-meter Vertical Antenna. Asking \$30.00
- Hy-Gain 18AVT 5 band HF Vertical Antenna. Asking \$40.00
- 19. Hustler 5-band HF Mobile Whip Antenna. Asking \$40.00
- 20. SST DL-1 100W Dummy Load. Asking \$5.00
- 21. CDR Ham-4 Rotor. Asking \$75.00
- 22. Rohn 25G 50 foot Tower with Thrust Bearing in top section. Asking \$200.00

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#### That Raged Old Flag

I walked through a country courthouse square.
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
I said, "Your country court house is kinda run down."
He said, "No, it will do for our little town."
I said, "Your old flag pole kinda leans a little bit,
And that's a ragged ol' flag you have hanging on it."
He said, "Have a seat", so I sat down.
"Is this your first visit to our little town?"

I said. "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag, But we're kinda proud of that "ragged old flag." "You see, we got a little hole in that flag there, when Washington took it across the Delaware." "It got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key sat watching it, writing, "Oh Say Can You See." "It got a rip in New Orleans, with Packingham and Jackson tugging at its seams." "It almost fell at the Alamo. beside the Texas flag, but she waved on tho." "It got cut with a sward in Changcellorsville, got cut again at Shiloh Hill." "There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Bragg, and the south wind blew hard on that ragged old flag." "On Flanders Field in World War I, she had a bad hit from a Bartha gun." "She turned blood red in World War II, she hung limp and low by the time that one was through." "She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam." "The Native Americans, Blacks, Yellows, Browns and Whites all shed red blood for the Stars and Stripes." "And here in her own good land, she's been abused, burned, dishonored, denied and refused, and the very government for which she stands has been scandalized throughout the land." "And she's getting thread-bare, and she's wearing kinda thin, but she's in pretty good shape, for the shape she's in, "cause she's been through the fire before. and she can take a whole lot more." "So we raise her up every morning and we bring her down slow every night. We don't let her touch the ground, And we fold her up right."

"On second thought, I do like to brag, "cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag."

The Author of this poem is unknown.

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#### Field Day & Mayor's Marathon Report By Edythe Lynn, KL7EL

I would like to express my heart felt thanks to all the very hard working Hams' that came out to help on both Field Day and the Mayors' Marathon. There were so many wonderful things happening that were new. The first one is the ARES/AARC communications vehicle. It had operating positions in both the front and back. The front end was used as the net control for the Mayors' Marathon while the back was used for Field Day phone operations. There were two more RV's that were set up nearby for the other operations. WL7IM and WL7PO operated the simplex net for the Half Marathon and 2 meter FM and packet for Field DayWL7ITI's motorhome was approximately 500 feet from the AARC motorhome. This stattion was strictly for CW operations. KL7Y provided a 40M 3 element beam which was suspended from a nearby light standard. Each of the HF motorhomes had their own tower

trailer and tri band beam. Each trailer now has a shiny new 12KW diesel generator on board, nicely integrated by KL7CC. AL7PJ and host of others. APRS was run for the Mayors Marathon and half marathon. It counted as part of the Field Day operations and was spear headed by KL5T, KL7TS, and AL7PJ. KL0OW ran fast scan TV from a the top of the hill near the finish line which also counted for field day. WL7BD did the satellite dance and made a number of contacts on AO-27 and UO-14 on handheld with battery power. Along with the operators that helped during the day and with the Marathon, we want to especially recognize the few hearty and devoted ones that manned the field day stations through the night. We also want to give recognition to the core group that got the motorhome and tower trailers assembled and in place for field day. That's not all either, there were the Amateur Radio sessions for the Girl Scouts of kit building, rabbit hunting and operating that this same core group assembled and manned at the State Fair Grounds in the midst of getting ready for Field Day.

Out in the shady back corner, KL7CY and KL7EL had their motorhome and a screen tent set up to feed the hungry operators from the Marathon and Field Day. The Enstar monster grill was there and BBQ'd chicken, moose ribs and lots of burgers, dogs and brauts. WL7JA brought his home made Sarsaparilla and Root Beer to compliment the food. We all ate like kings but could not do all the food justice. We were way down on both help and operators and for no good reason that we could think of.

Here is a big poke at those HAMs that had all sorts of excuses for not wanting to be out in the sunshine, eat as much as they want, get to play with new toys and work together to promote the hobby. You missed out and have no place to say anything!

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#### Note MARA Meeting has been change for July only to Saturday July 26th for a PICINC and Bunny Hunt

#### **Bunny Hunt Information**

\*The July meeting will be a bunny hunt and BBQ at the Matanuska River Park in north Palmer instead of our regular routine. We would like to meet at the Park at 9:00AM Saturday and the bunny hunt will get underway at 10:00AM. Look for signs (or lots of antennas) at Pavilion A in the Day use area.

#### Here are the rules for the Bunny Hunt:

- 1. The bunny will be **stationary** and will be located in a public area. He will not be permitted to transmit from private property or behind "No Trespassing" signs. The bunny must be located so that the hunter may see the bunny from a distance of 20 feet. Non-conspicuous locations are allowed as long as visibility is maintained.
- The bunny will be located in the Palmer area, bounded by Arctic Ave. (old Glenn Hwy.) on the north, Matanuska River on the east, New Glenn Highway on the west, and the Inner Springer Loop on the southside of the fairgrounds.

- 3. The bunny will transmit for a minimum of 1.5 minutes continuously (90 seconds) each 5-minute period from one transmitter on 146.430mhz. No cross banding or assistance from others permitted.
- 4. All hunters will start at the same time from the park.
- 5. There will be a two-hour time limit to find the bunny.
- 6. This is to be an individual effort. "Individual" in this context is defined as a vehicle and its occupants. There is no limit to the number of occupants of a vehicle, but vehicle to vehicle collaboration is strictly prohibited. Nonhams are welcome to participate.
- 7. The first participant to find the bunny will be declared the "Winner" and will be invited to be the bunny for the next bunny hupt

In case of a tie, the winner will be selected by a coin toss. In case of a "near-tie" the judge will be the bunny, whose decision will be final.

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## Radio Direction Finding (RDF) (AKA Bunny Hunting) By Dan O'Barr WL7BD dan@obarr.net (907) 373-2569

Radio Direction Finding (RDF) is put to use in many different ways and for many different purposes today. The most commonly known uses are: for biologists to find radio-collared animals for scientific research and for search and rescue teams to find crashed airplanes. But did you know that Amateur Radio Operators (Hams) have made it into a sport called "Bunny Hunting"? Amateur Radio Bunny Hunting is a type of competitive game where a group of Hams go looking for a hidden transmitter-"The Bunny". Usually the first Ham to find The Bunny is declared the winner, given a prize, and invited to be The Bunny next time.

Other uses of Radio Direction Finding (RDF) include radio navigation of ships at sea and flying airplanes by what is known as Instrument Flight Rules (IFR). RDF is also used to locate stolen cars, money from bank robberies, criminals out on parole, emergency 911 calls made from cell phones, deliberant jammers that try to cause problems with police, fire departments, ambulances, and air traffic controllers, and stuck transmitters of all kinds.

The uses for Radio Direction Finding is very long and there are related uses of radio signals that you may have heard of like; Radio Detection and Ranging (Radar) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

The simplest way to find a transmitter's location is to use a method called triangulation. You need a directional antenna, a receiver with signal strength indicator, and it helps to have a map of the area. Some of the same equipment used to talk through Amateur Radio Satellites can be used. You use your equipment to find the direction of the strongest signal and draw a line on the map from your location in that direction. Then you go to the right or left, not toward or away, from the signal and do it again. Voilá! Where the lines cross should be real close to the transmitter. Of course like anything complicated, it takes practice and it helps if you have a teacher that has done it before, get you started.

There are many more sophisticated ways of doing Radio Direction Finding, but they all take much more expensive equipment and training. Here are a few resources: Welcome to Homing In. All About Radio Direction Finding (RDF)

http://members.aol.com/homingin/index.html

**Burrowing Owl Project** 

http://members.aol.com/joemoell/owl.html

Doppler Direction Finder Kit

http://www.ramseyelectronics.com/cgi-

bin/commerce.exe?preadd=action&key=DDF1

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#### Special Event Proposal For Iditarod 2002 By Len Betts, NL7NF

Just a brief update on our Club's proposal initiative to host a Special Event Station during the running of the 2002 Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

I stood tall before the monthly meeting of the Iditarod Trail Committee, submitting our proposal and answering questions from Board Members. But in the end we (the Club) received an 8-0 approval on our Special Event Proposal. Great news! Now the work really begins, but with your help I'll be up to the task to chair the upcoming event.

A formal "letter of approval and requirements" will be forthcoming from Iditarod Headquarters and should be received in time for its presentation at the upcoming June meeting.

Here's looking forward to next March!

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PHUZZY SIGHENCE June 2001 OUR MOTTO= PSI R ROUND/CAKE R SQUARE

This month's subject covers a rather strange phenomenon, "ROAD KILL PORCUPINES". Have you ever noticed, when spotted along the highways their remains are not larger by much than a child's fist? The standard theory is an 18 wheeled truck pureed the poor critter, but as usual I have an answer. Maybe some state or federal fund will grant a few million to research this line of thought. During the winter, most road departments spread some "ICE MELT", to prevent that slipping and sliding we in the Northern States enjoy so much. The main ingredient in ice melt is urea, which contains vast amounts of nitrates, and is actually a fertilizer under other names. Porcupines love the flavor of the urea and consume all they can get. The nitrates build up in their fatty body tissue and over a period of time becomes a source for explosion. Ask any old GI or demolition expert about diesel fuel and fertilizer. Quite a big bang can result if the mixture is just right. The Defense Department was considering using juiced up porkys as a cheap form of ordinance by "PETA" had a hissy fit and the troops hated the upload procedures. So, if you ever see a complete porcupine at the roadside, call the Authorities or BOMB SQUAD. DON'T approach, it may be a dud ready to be a do.

CUL DE TIM, NL7SK. 73.

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The Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is one of the most significant holidays in American history. It was on that day, in 1776, that the 13 American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, one of the greatest documents in the long struggle of mankind for freedom from oppressive government.

The Declaration contained these words that made it more than just another political document:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

The ideas in the Declaration were not new. Indeed, they had been expressed by British thinkers such as John Locke, and similar sentiments had been used in Britain to justify rebellion against King James II in 1688. But Jefferson's words struck a chord across America, and across the world; they still reverberate today.

Fifty-six American leaders in the Continental Congress stepped forward to sign the final document, at enormous personal risk.

Tragically, many Americans today have no idea of the great sacrifices that were made by the Founders to win their freedom.

The story below tells what happened to the men who signed the Declaration of Independence. The author's name, as far as I know, is lost.

What Happened to the Signers?

Five signers were captured by the British and brutally tortured as traitors. Nine fought in the War for Independence and died from wounds or from hardships they suffered. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another two had sons captured. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes pillaged and burned.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. One was a teacher, one a musician, and one a printer. These were men of means and education, yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

In the face of the advancing British Army, the Continental Congress fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore on December 12, 1776. It was an especially anxious time for John Hancock, the President, as his wife had just given birth to a baby girl. Due to the complications stemming from the trip to Baltimore, the child lived only a few months.

William Ellery's signing at the risk of his fortune proved only too realistic. In December 1776, during three days of British occupation of Newport, Rhode Island, Ellery's house was burned, and all his property destroyed.

Richard Stockton, a New Jersey State Supreme Court Justice, had rushed back to his estate near Princeton after signing the Declaration of Independence to find that his wife and children were living like refugees with friends. They had been betrayed by a Tory sympathizer who also revealed Stockton's own whereabouts. British troops pulled him from his bed one night, beat him and threw him in jail where he almost starved to death. When he was finally released, he went home to find his estate had been looted, his possessions burned, and his horses stolen. Judge Stockton had been so badly treated in prison that his health was ruined and he died before the war's end. His surviving family had to live the remainder of their lives off charity.

Carter Braxton was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one,, his ships were captured by the British navy. He loaned a large sum of money to the American cause; it was never paid back. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his other properties to pay his debts.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Clymer, Hall, Harrison, Hopkinson and Livingston. Seventeen lost everything they owned.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., Edward Rutledge and Arthur Middleton, all of South Carolina, were captured by the British during the Charleston Campaign in 1780. They were kept in dungeons at the St. Augustine Prison until exchanged a year later.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done, and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed. The British jailed his wife for two months, and that and other hardships from the war so affected her health that she died only two years later.

"Honest John" Hart, a New Jersey farmer, was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen

children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his grist mill were laid waste. For over a year he eluded capture by hiding in nearby forests. He never knew where his bed would be the next night and often slept in caves. When he finally returned home, he found that his wife had died, his children disappeared, and his farm and stock were completely destroyed. Hart himself died in 1779 without ever seeing any of his family again.

Such were the stories and sacrifices typical of those who risked everything to sign the Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged:

"For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

What an incredible story! Remember these men and their sacrifices as you celebrate this Fourth of July.

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Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Summary of Financial Affairs January through May, 2001			
		Assets	
		Gaming Account	\$127,007
All other Current Assets	\$48,749		
Fixed Assets	\$114,976		
Boniface Bingo	\$18,990		
Total Assets	\$309,723		
Liabilities	\$0		
Equity	\$309,723		
Operating Income	\$1,693		
Operating Expenses	-\$10,098		
Gaming Income	\$38,250		
Contributions	\$5,900		
Gaming Funds xfrd to General Acct.	\$37,000		

This summary does not include notes or other information which are an integral part of a complete Financial Statement and should not be relied upon as a complete or accurate statement of the Club's Financial Condition.

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